

## Office of Personnel Management

## § 359.602

(b) *Informal hearing.* (1) A career appointee being removed from the SES under this section shall, at least 15 days before the effective date of the removal, be entitled, upon request, to an informal hearing before an official designated by the Merit Systems Protection Board. The appointee shall submit the request for an informal hearing to the Board. This request may be made at any time after the appointee has received the notice described in paragraph (a) of this section, but no later than 15 days before the effective date of action. The informal hearing shall be conducted in accordance with the regulations and procedures established by the Board. See 5 CFR 1201.141, Right to hearing, and 5 CFR 1201.142, Hearing procedures; referral of the record.

(2) Neither the granting nor the conduct of an informal hearing shall provide a basis for appeal to the Merit Systems Protection Board under 5 U.S.C. 7701. The removal action need not be delayed because of the granting of an informal hearing.

### § 359.503 Restrictions.

(a) Removal from the SES under this subpart may not be made effective within 120 days after—

(1) The appointment of a new agency head; or

(2) The appointment in the agency of the career appointee's most immediate supervisor who—

(i) Is a noncareer appointee; and

(ii) Has the authority to remove the career appointee.

(b) For purposes of this section, a noncareer appointee includes an SES noncareer or limited appointee, an appointee in a position filled by Schedule C, or an appointee in an Executive Schedule or equivalent position other than a career Executive Schedule or equivalent position.

(c) This restriction does not apply when the career appointee has received a final rating of unsatisfactory under the performance appraisal system established by the agency under subchapter II of chapter 43 of title 5, United States Code, before the appointment of a new agency head or the appointment of the career appointee's most immediate noncareer supervisor

who has the authority to remove the career appointee.

[54 FR 18876, May 3, 1989, as amended at 57 FR 10125, Mar. 24, 1992]

### § 359.504 Appeals.

An action taken under § 359.501 is not appealable to the Merit Systems Protection Board under 5 U.S.C. 7701.

## Subpart F—Removal of Career Appointees as a Result of Reduction in Force

### § 359.601 General.

(a) *Coverage.* (1) This subpart covers the removal of a career appointee from the SES as a result of a reduction in force.

(2) This subpart does not cover, however, a career appointee who is serving as a reemployed annuitant. See subpart I of this part for removal of a reemployed annuitant.

(b) *Definitions.* (1) *Probationary period* is defined in § 359.202 of this part.

(2) *Reduction in force* is defined in 5 U.S.C. 3595(d) as including "the elimination or modification of a position due to a reorganization, due to a lack of funds or curtailment of work, or due to any other factor."

(3) *Agency* in this subpart means an executive department or an independent establishment.

(c) *Agency procedures.* An agency must have issued written procedures before conducting a reduction in force. A copy of the procedures shall be provided OPM upon issuance.

[54 FR 18876, May, 3, 1989, as amended at 60 FR 6388, Feb. 2, 1995]

### § 359.602 Agency reductions in force.

(a) *Competitive procedures.* (1) This paragraph applies to all SES career appointees in the agency, including appointees serving a probationary period.

(2) An agency shall establish competitive procedures in writing to determine who will be removed from the SES in any reduction in force of career appointees within the agency. Such competitive procedures shall be based primarily on performance. When performance ratings are used, they shall be the final ratings under 5 CFR part 430, subpart C.